



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley National Park
California / Nevada

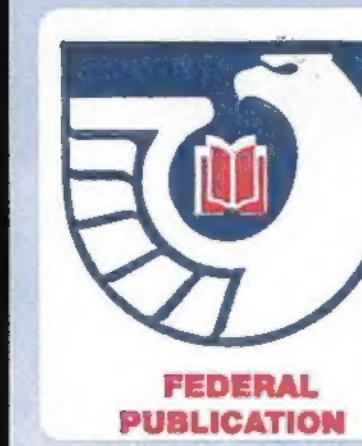
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Death Valley



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Death Valley . . . so empty, so vast, so simple, so quiet.

Then, with a rush and a cry, a raven soars past, drawing your attention to the unexpected details around you. A flicker of movement makes you grab your camera, but the lizard darts away before you can take a picture. Now you notice flowers growing in the shadow of a rock. More surprises await. . . . Discover pine woodlands atop high mountains or life crowded around isolated springs. Rise with the sun and watch light touch the snowy peaks, slide down the slopes, and illuminate the valley floor—revealing colors and textures that wash out in the harsh light of midday.

Half the park is after dark when silence and darkness reign.

At night, your senses sharpen to detect subtle sounds and the glory of the night sky. Be still and listen. The silence is so deep you can hear crystals on the salt flats pop as they contract in the cooling evening. Catch a glimpse of creatures once hidden from the daytime heat, now skittering between rocks or racing across the sand. As your eyes adjust to the dark, look up—the clear, dry air and few lights let billions of stars shine through Earth's atmosphere. This after-dark extravaganza has earned Death Valley the designation of International Dark Sky Park.



ILLUSTRATION BY LIZ BRADFORD

